

Sub B^u 7 15. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting identification comprises transmitting identification in response to user interaction with a user interface element.

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16. A system for assigning a person to a chat room, the system comprising:
server software resident on a network server, the software including:
instructions for distributing messages received from chat room members to other chat room members;
instructions for providing chat rooms corresponding to different television programming; and
instructions for
determining the television programming tuned to by a networked device that receives television programming; and
assigning a network user using the networked device to a chat room based on the determined television programming; and;
client software residing on the networked device, the client software including:
instructions for transmitting identification of the television programming being displayed by the networked device; and
instructions for displaying chat room messages submitted by other chat room members.

Sub B^u 7
18. A computer program, disposed on a computer readable medium, for assigning a user to a chat room, the program including instructions for causing a processor to:
provide a user interface that displays television programming;
transmit identification of the television programming to a network server; and
present a chat room that includes messages received by the network server from other users viewing the television programming.

Please add the following new claims 19-25.

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-- 19. A set-top box comprising:
a display interface to output a television programming display;
an output to transmit an indication of a television programming output as the television programming display;
a processor to cause the display interface to output a chat room display associated with the indication.

20. The set-top box of claim 19 wherein the chat room display and the television program display simultaneously.

21. The set-top box of claim 19 wherein the chat room display includes messages from other users viewing the television programming.

22. The set-top box of claim 19 further comprising:
a network interface configured to receive chat room data corresponding to the indication wherein the processor is configured to cause the display interface to display the chat room data.

23. The set-top box of claim 20 further comprising:
an input configure to receive a television programming selection wherein the display interface is configured to output television programming corresponding to the selection, the output interface is configured to transmit an indication corresponding to the selection and the processor is configured to cause the display interface to output a chat room associated with the selection.

24. The set-top box of claim 23 wherein the processor is configured to delay transmission of the indication for a predetermined period of time.

25. The set-top box of claim 23 wherein a change in the selection of television programming causes the processor to automatically transmit an indication corresponding to the change in selection. --
